

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 17 JULY 2014

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT ON LICENSING ACTIVITY – QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2 OF 2014

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report:

To update Members on activity in the licensing department re:

- Processing licences,
- Enforcement activity, and
- Other implementation of the Service Plan.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE:</u> that
(A) The report be received.

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1.0 Background

1.1 This report presents data by full quarters on processing and enforcement data, and Licensing Sub Committee involvement, on licences, notices, and permits, and applications including:

- Alcohol, entertainment, and late night refreshment licences under the Licensing Act 2003,
- Gaming under the Gambling Act 2005,
- Taxi drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators.

1.2 This report also records developments in the service that implement the Service Plan.

2.0 Report

2.1 See **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** for performance data for quarter 1 of 2014: 1 Jan – 31 March 2014. This contains the numbers of applications and notices received, and totals of current licences as at 31 March 2014.

2.2 During the first quarter of 2014 the enforcement team undertook 77 actions which are divided between visits, inspections and investigations. These have been analysed further and are recorded as:

- Taxi Inspections and Investigations 15
- Premises Complaints and Visits 10
- Gambling Premises visits 0
- Blue Notice visits 10
- Invoice Visits/chase ups 42
- House to House Collection complaints 0
- Taxi Camera Investigations 0
- TENS Complaints and Investigations 0

All complaints regarding taxis and premises have been fully investigated.

2.3 In respect of premises, the breaches of the licences have been addressed in accordance with our Licensing Enforcement Policy. Currently at the time of reporting there are 9 outstanding invoices. There have been no premises suspended and no premises licence revoked due to non payment of fees.

2.4 A significant part of the enforcement team's work is to ensure that all documentation for taxi drivers and vehicles are current and licenses are valid. During this quarter 30 letters were produced.

2.5 Under the licensing points system a total of 62 points have been issued to 27 licence holders. This is continuing to contribute to improvements in drivers and proprietors behaviour.

3.0 See **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** for performance data for quarter 2 of 2014: 1 April – 30 June 2014. This contains the numbers of applications and notices received, and the totals of current licences as at 30 June 2014.

3.1 During quarter 2 of 2014 the enforcement team have undertaken 57 actions which are divided between visits, inspections and investigations. These have been analysed further and are recorded as:

- Taxi Inspections and Investigations 14
- Premises Complaints and Visits 18

- Gambling Premises visits 0
- Blue Notice visits 3
- Invoice Visits/chase ups 22
- House to House Collection complaints 0
- Taxi Camera Investigations 0
- TENS Complaints and Investigations 0

All complaints regarding taxis and premises have been fully investigated.

3.2 In respect of premises, the breaches of the licences have been addressed in accordance with our Licensing Enforcement Policy. Currently at the time of reporting there are 11 outstanding invoices. No premises licences have been suspended or revoked for non-payment of the annual fees in this quarter.

3.3 A significant part of the enforcement team's work is to ensure that all documentation for taxi drivers and vehicles are current and licenses are valid. During this quarter 53 letters were produced.

3.4 Under the licensing points system a total of 105 points have been issued to 49 licence holders. This is continuing to contribute to improvements in drivers and proprietors behaviour.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None.

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